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SEX OFFENDER INDICTED FOR FEDERAL FAILURE TO REGISTER OFFENSE

FRESNO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott and United States Marshal Antonio Amador jointly announced today that MARCUS SILQUERO EHRLICH, 34, of Fresno, California was indicted today by a grand jury sitting in Fresno for one count of failing to register as a sex offender. This is the first such case brought in the Eastern District of California under recently-enacted federal sex offender legislation.

The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Walsh Act) was enacted on July 27, 2006, to create a new comprehensive national system and set of requirements for sex offender registration and notification. As part of this legislation, the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act imposes federal requirements for sex offenders to register in the jurisdictions in which they live, work, or attend school. The U.S. Marshals Service is entrusted as the lead federal agency in enforcing the provisions of these new laws.

The case was the result of an investigation by the United States Marshals Service office in Fresno, California working in conjunction with the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of Adult Parole Operations, and the Texas County, Missouri Sheriff's Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that between July 28, 2006, through at least June 14, 2007, the defendant was required to register under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. But the defendant failed to update his registration as required and then traveled in interstate commerce. Court records indicate that the defendant was required to register as a sex offender in California because of his conviction on August 3, 1998, for sex with a child under age 16.

The maximum potential punishments that the defendant faces are a ten-year term of imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and a lifetime term of supervised release. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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